



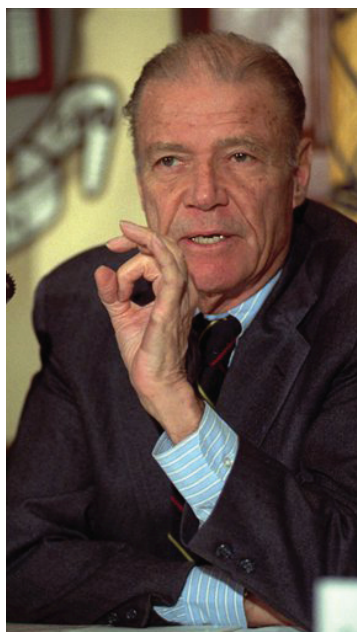
Price of a barrel
of petroleum

US\$ 64.05
2.68 ▼

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

MCNAMARA DIES



In a Jan. 21, 1992 file photo, Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara gestures during a news conference in Washington. Former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara died Monday, July 6, 2009, according to his wife. He was 93.

See World News See Page B3

SPORTS NEWS

IN THE CARDS



In this June 16, 2009 file photo, St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols smiles during a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio.

See Sports Today Page B10

With Oscar Hurtado, Annabel van Westerop taking top honors in Kiteboarding Venezuela's Alexis Carache wins Aruba Hi-Winds 2009

Bonaire's Choco Frans named King of the Huts



MOOMBABEACH—Aruba's Minister of Tourism Edison Briesen closed the 23rd anniversary of the annual Aruba Hi-Winds, the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean last evening at the Paseo Herencia Mall. Aruba, famous for its year-round trade winds and calm seas, makes the island nation the perfect location for this series of events that attract professionals and amateurs alike.



The Hi-Winds competition includes races for windsurfing and kite boarding. Categories featured are long distance,

course racing, slalom and freestyle for windsurfing; and course racing and freestyle for kite boarding. Each category is open for men, women, masters, juniors and kids.

In addition to enjoying the competitions during the day, the Hi-Winds organizing committee has put together fun festivities to entertain all participants and guests in the evenings.

This historic event dates back to 1987, where the Hi-Winds competition was the first event dedicated to hosting world champions and professionals in the windsurfing community. The event's latest addition to



the program is kite boarding, which has turned the competition into an immediate success with all audiences. Pictures show the Venezuelan TV Crew filming one of the evening activities. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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Stein to take up position in Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Windward Islands Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein plans to take up a job in the Prosecutor's Office of Aruba later this year.

Stein is currently in negotiation to become Aruba's Solicitor General, second to the Attorney General. Aruba hopes to get Stein in by September. The Dutch Ministry of

Internal and Kingdom Affairs announced on its Website over the weekend that the Kingdom Council of Ministers had approved Stein's appointment as Aruba's new Solicitor

General as of September 1. Stein confirmed the decision Sunday, saying he would talk more about it when negotiations over accommodations and salary had been completed.

He has been chief prosecutor for St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius since 2006. Stein's replacement, Hans Mos, is due on St. Maarten on August 1. □

"No economic decline for Curaçao this year"

WILLEMSTAD--This year the economy of Curaçao will remain stable or grow slightly. Ramon Chong, head of the Island Territory's Department of Economic Affairs DEZ announced this during the presentation of the Economic Outlook 2009 in the Central Bank's auditorium. According to Chong, the economy

in 2009 will remain practically the same as in 2008 or if all goes well grow by 0.7 per cent in the optimistic scenario. With this, the island could distinguish itself from many other Western economies that are on the decline due to the worldwide crisis. Halfway through the year 2009, Chong sketched a pessimistic (baseline) as well as an optimistic scenario for the economic state of affairs the year. Unemployment will either remain the same or perhaps slightly decrease (0.1 per cent) according to the current insight. Tourism will decline substantially (with certainly five per cent and possibly even 10 per cent less overnight stays). Inflation will decrease, but at 5.9 per cent it still remains high compared to last year. Furthermore, exports will decline (six per cent), but imports and private consumption will increase by respectively three- and six per cent, while the business investments will increase by seven per cent.

It is expected that the E-zone will slightly diminish this year because of the worldwide economic crisis. Free zones management company Curinde is currently busy formulating a new strategic

plan to remain in line with the views of the Island Council to develop into an international trade centre by 2016. The economic zone at the airport will be further developed and the legislation for the e-zones is being worked on. Moreover, Curinde welcomed 90,000 visitors so far this year; a growth of nearly 14 per cent. With an expected turnover increase of 65 per cent, the prospects for 2009 for government-owned fuel distributor Curoil are good. For the most part this growth is generated by international sales. The future growth for utility company Aqualetra regarding electricity is estimated at an average of 1.8 per cent until 2014, and 4.4 per cent regarding the water supply. The company is working on the export of its "Claro" bottled water to Europe. A further growth of six per cent is expected for Hato airport, which observed an increase in the number of passengers by 44 per cent between 2005 and 2008, and there are plans to develop the area into an 'Airport City' with among other things a business hotel. According to the Economic Outlook, the harbour activities

will also increase this year, with 234 cruise ships totalling 420,000 passengers expected; respectively 11.5 and 18.4 per cent more than last year. It is assumed the dry-dock ship repair company CDM will not show growth, but it is looking at a break-even result. The construction sector, which produced a personnel increase of 13 per cent during the past year, is also coping with understaffing of well-trained (local) personnel this year as well as a problem with foreigners. The long-term prospects are viewed as insecure, in spite of the several Social Economic Initiative (SEI) projects in the planning phase for which 120 million guilders is reserved during the next three years. The prospect for the local financial sector is one of lower interests (and therefore also revenues) and the issue of surplus liquid assets. In 2008, the balance total of the commercial banks increased by nearly 20 per cent. The international financial services sector will also encounter a further decline this year in view of a lower international investors' confidence. □



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Jaron "The Keys" rips it up at Sopranos



ARAWAK GARDENS - Jaron "The Keys" Reid is a young, talented and highly energetic entertainer. Currently ripping up the keys at Sopranos Piano Bar with a diverse repertoire ranging from standard pop covers to blues, rock, jazz and country, Jaron can please any crowd.

With an extremely powerful voice, Jaron sings with passion and conviction and is compared to artists ranging from Elton John and Tom Waits to Joe Cocker and Bruce Springsteen.

A recent evening performance featured powerful renditions of Leonard Cohen's "Alleluia", Carly Simon's "You're So Vain", a soulful blues number, and even a cover "A Long December" by the alternative rock band Counting Crows. Reid's repertoire clearly includes numbers to suit every musical taste. In addition, listeners are always invited to pick up pen and paper and request their favorite songs, and Reid will make every effort to oblige.

Raised in Alberta, Canada,

Jaron Reid began playing professionally after finishing high school.



Over the past several years of performing, Jaron's playing has taken him across Canada, through much of the United States and to various parts of Europe. Before appearing at various locations around the Caribbean, Jaron spent several years touring full-time in

Ireland with a local band. In addition, this talented musician and singer has two professional albums to his credit. Jaron Reid tickles the ivories most evenings until 2 a.m. at Sopranos Piano Bar near the high-rise hotels at Palm Beach.

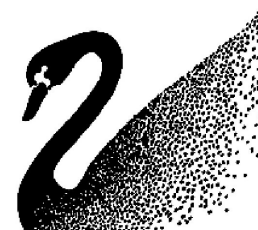


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Touring the Island with ECO DMS



ORANJESTAD – A group of travel professionals from Venezuela went on an island tour organized by ECO Destination Management Service of Aruba, Monday morning. The tour was designed to introduce Aruba’s many

treasures to the dignitaries, who were driven along country roads, to the Casibari and Ayo Rock Formations, the Natural Bridge, the Gold Mines and the Alto Vista Church. Pictured here their departure from the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



spearheaded by the ECO DMS team, and backed up by the Radisson’s executives Vicky Perez and Bruce Cavan. The Venezuelans are staying

at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa and will help sell the island as a perfect vacation destination upon their return to their homeland. □



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July 16th	Seaport	AWG 7500
July 23th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
July 30th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
August 6th	Crystal	AWG 7500
August 13th	Seaport	AWG 7500
August 20th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
August 27th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 3rd	Crystal	AWG 7500
September 10th	Seaport	AWG 7500
September 17th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 24th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay

For more information please call: 523-6318 or 523-6437
Winner must be present at the drawing with valid ID to claim their prize.



Renaissance Curaçao Resort & Casino

Rangers ink five international prospects

Sardinas leads talented group, ranked as No. 6 talent

By Daniel Paulling

ARLINGTON -- Jurickson Profar and Chris Garia joined the Rangers organization on Sunday, but their connection to the Major Leagues began long before that.

Andruw Jones hosts an international tournament every January in his native Curacao, which scouts say has grown into a bigger hotbed of international talent. Both Profar and Garia played in Jones' tournament.

"It's a nice thing he does," said

Chu Halabi, an international scout with the Rangers. "He's very interested in the kids. That kind of athlete is big for them."

Jones deflects praise about hosting the tournament.

"It's just something I do for the kids," Jones said. "It's before the regular season so it helps them get ready. The winners get prizes."

In addition to Profar and Garia, the Rangers also signed shortstop Luis Mendez from Venezuela, shortstop Luis

Sardinas from Venezuela and left-handed pitcher Daniel De la Torre from Mexico.

Baseball America ranked Sardinas as the No. 6 talent among international players who became eligible to sign after the July 2 deadline.

Sardinas is projected to remain at shortstop because of his good hands and range. He ran a 6.83 60-yard dash in a mid-June Perfect Game National Showcase, but some scouts say his time has been as fast as 6.6 seconds.



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"He's a plus runner," said A.J. Preller, the Rangers director of professional and international scouting. "He's a true shortstop. We're excited to have him in the mix."

Profar was ranked No. 15 by Baseball America.

"Jurickson is a shortstop," Preller said. "A lot of other teams had him as a pitcher, but we see him as a shortstop."

And Profar's happy with that. "I like playing," Profar said. "I don't like sitting on the bench for four days [the time between starts]. I like to play every day."

As a 16-year-old, Profar's fastball has touched 92 mph, and he features a solid curveball. In the 2004 Little League World Series tournament, Profar threw six shutout innings in a 4-0 victory over Mexico in the international championship game. He followed that performance by going 2-for-3 with a home run as Curacao clinched the Little League World Series championship game, 5-2, over California.

Profar pitched six shutout innings in the international championship game over Japan the next year. Curacao lost the championship game that season.

Manager Ron Washington threw batting practice to Profar and Garia on Sunday at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, but it wasn't his first experience with the former.

"I met him last year when I was in the Dominican in January," Washington said. "He said he wanted to be a Ranger. You're going to see him in Texas. He's a talent -- good hands, good bat. He's got a good idea of how to play baseball for a 16-year-old."

Garia had the opportunity to represent Curacao in sprint competitions but suffered a hamstring injury four months ago. He now focuses only on baseball because of his love of the sport.

Both Profar and Garia are expected to join the Dominican Rangers, whose season begins July 10.

"This is a continuation of our philosophy to add the best available talent from all arenas to our development system," said Rangers general manager Jon Daniels. "I appreciate the commitment from ownership that's allowed our people to be aggressive in all facets of amateur acquisition. We believe it will aid in the success of our Major League club for years to come." □

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CasaTua Barcelona Downtown & Pizzeria Palm Beach

The Casa Tua Barcelona downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating while the Pizzeria Palm Beach location serves their guests on a cozy outside terrace.

Both restaurants serve the same brick-oven thin crusted pizzas and both pour the same homemade Sangria. Where the restaurants differ from each other is certain menu items and the opening hours. Casa Tua Barcelona downtown is open for lunch with delicious lunch specials from Monday till Friday. One lunch special is a \$ 9.95 Beef Tenderloin with red wine sauce. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you should choose the



fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef!

The staff at both popular eateries have set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Casa Tua Barcelona offers a live flamenco show on Fridays while you can enjoy daily live music at Pizzeria Arawak. Wherever you decide to go, you won't be disappointed.



**At Arawak Gardens enjoy the EarlyBird Special:
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Choice: Soup or Salad as appetizer, Chicken Breast Francesa or Linguini Pomodoro or Penne Pesto or Pasta Carbonara as main course and a choice of Flan a l'orange or chocolate mousse as dessert.

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am – 10.30pm, Sundays from 5pm – 10.30pm Tel. 588 5695

Casa Tua Pizzeria Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm 7 days a week tel 586 8470

Marriott's Surf Club guests enjoy Aruba's underwater world



PALM BEACH - Joe Stroup and his 2 sons Jordan and Jeremy are visiting the island of Aruba. Joe's wife and daughter had to stay back home and the 3 guys came to Aruba for 8 days for a father son excursion. Joe and Jordan came 4 years ago for Jordan's senior trip now they are back for Jeremy's senior trip. They came with Kent Gerber who is here for his 17th trip and he stays 3 weeks every time. That means this week Kent has accumulated 1 year on Aruba!!!

The 3 Stroups are all certified divers so they are doing some diving and they go snorkeling with Kent everyday. "We have all the equipment to make it fun and easy. We are staying at the Marriott Surf Club and we are usually in the ocean most of the day." Joe says that this place is so great; he will bring his wife and daughter next time. □



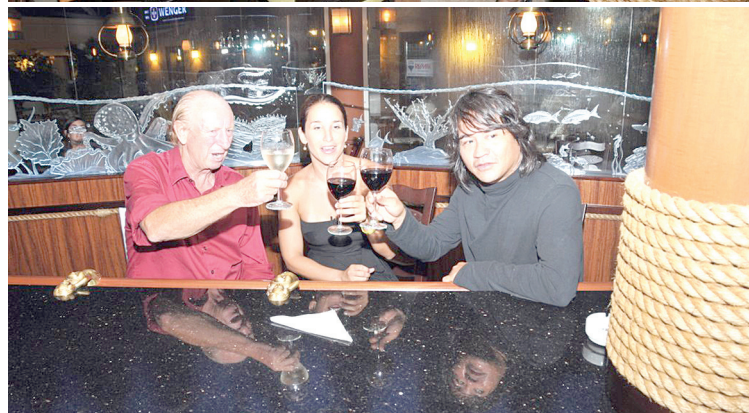
Enjoying the fruits of the sea at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant

Venezuelan Sports & Tourism crew cover Aruba



PASEO HERENCIA – Venezuelan TV Personality and Professional Athlete Daniela Acquatella is currently on Aruba covering The Aruba Hi-Winds Windsurfing and Kitesurfing event at the Fisherman's Huts. Daniella would love to have participated as she is a renowned kitesurfer, but she had to double as a host for a television program about

Extreme Sports and Tourism. Daniella, together with her crew Producer Andrea Perez and Producer / Videographer Victor Moreno not only covered the Annual Aruba Hi-Winds at the Fisherman's Huts, they visited a variety of new restaurants on the island including Aruba's newest seafood treasure Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant in the Paseo Herencia Mall.



Accompanied by Special Events Coordinator of the Aruba Tourism Authority Amayra Boekhoudt, they enjoyed an evening under the sea complete with all the yummy ocean treasures prepared by the professional chefs of Moby Dick's. They finished the evening with the famous Banana Banana; a dessert that is a must try before leaving the island of Aruba.

Restaurant Owners Brian and Luz Marina Reeve together with Gilbert Senchi were



interviewed by the Television and Tourism program in Venezuela. □

Photos by Julia Renfro






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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse offering Spa Cuisine



Palm Beach – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing

flavors with citrus, spice and herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

“We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers,” he adds, “all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly,” he informs.

“The Sunset Grille kitchen,” Smeets reveals, “uses no trans fats, and our guests,” he banter, “stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine.”

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, “Shaken not Stirred,” the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar.

The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon



and Scallops served with the popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of “tried and true” as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Smeets explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing



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Life's a beach at the Lazy Lizard



find at the new South Beach Centre on Palm Beach, just a few steps away from the Hard Rock Café, is absolutely gorgeous: hand picked gifts,

souvenirs, beach and resort wear, for women, men and kids. It's all on display from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. The tastefully arranged store is

signature Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn, the Boston-born retailer at the helm of Salamander Holdings family of fun stores, The Juggling Fish, The Coconut Trading Co., T.H. Palm & Company & The Lazy Lizard. You will find a great selection of children's gifts here. In fact an entire store section is dedicated to gifts with a tropical appeal for babies and toddlers, among them whimsical plush stuffed iguanas, parrots and seahorses. Moreover, a bonanza of fridge magnets, hand-made silver jewelry, batik beach



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Good showing for T&T in CAC Games

Trinidad and Tobago had some brave performances to finish in a strong position on the final two days of the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games at the Pan American Stadium in Havana, Cuba on the weekend.

Up to press time yesterday, T&T's two gold medals--won by Emmanuel Callender in the 100 metres and the 4x100m men's relay team--put them second to the hosts, who have run away with the competition with a whopping 30 medals, including 16 gold.

Trinidad and Tobago sprinter Rondell Sorillo delivered a silver medal performance in the men's 200 metres in 20.72 seconds, finishing between the Jamaican pair of winner Nickel Ashmeade (20.54) and Ramone McKenzie (20.74).

Sorillo had earlier won his heat, but Callender failed to come out of qualifying.

Among the 200m women, Reyare Thomas (23.61) took

bronze, won by St Kitts' Virgil Hodge (32.41), with Cuban Roxana Diaz (23.56) third. Semoy Hackett did not start the race.

Earlier, Thomas was an automatic qualifier in the semi-finals, while Semoy Hackett, the only other T&T athlete in the event, was one of the fastest losers in 23.75. T&T middle distance runners Pilar McShine and Gavyn Nero both put up strong showings, grabbing silver and bronze in the men's and women's 800-metre event, respectively.

Nero was the last qualifier for the men's 800m final as one of the two fastest losers, albeit with the fifth fastest overall time.

Melissa De Leon also performed creditably in the women's 800, but her 2:04.45 clocking was only good for fourth place, behind Zulia Calatyud (2:01.63) of Cuba

Jehue Gordon also put up a bronze medal-winning performance in the men's

400 metre hurdles with a 49.45 run, while teammate Emmanuel Mayers was seventh and last in 51.63. Javier Culson of Puerto Rico won that event in 48.51.

T&T's 4x400m men were third in the final, won by the Netherlands Antilles, with Puerto Rico second.

And Cleavon Dillon placed eighth in the long jump final with a best effort of 7.07 metres.

On Saturday, Trinidad and Tobago's 4x100m relay team blazed to victory in 38.73, getting T&T's second gold medal in the Games after Callender's 100m triumph.

T&T's 4x100 men--with Sorillo, Callender, Jovon Toppin and Keston Bledman from lead off to anchor in that order--bolted home in a fast time, even without their top sprinters.

Jamaica, also without their best 100-metre specialists, were second in 39.31, with the Bahamas tearing home in 39.45 to take the bronze.

Earlier Saturday in the semi-

finals, T&T strode to victory in the second heat, clocking 39.25 in the process.

The T&T women's relay team--Sasha Springer, Semoy Hackett, Reyare Thomas and Ayanna Hutchinson--placed third in the 4x100 final in 43.75. St Kitts Nevis (43.53) won the event, with Columbia (43.67) second.

T&T's Kerron Browne was 12th and last in the men's javelin with a 57.49 throw, failing to reach the final round.

On the opening day Friday, Annie Alexander finished just out of the medals for the discus throw, tossing the object 52.68 metres. Ashlee

Smith was seventh in the same event, with a 46.50 heave. Another Cuban, Yarelis Barrios, won gold in 62.10.

Jarrin Solomon (46.89) and Jovon Toppin (47.75) both missed the men's 400m final, placing third and fifth in heats two and three, respectively.

In the field, Quincy Wilson was fifth in the men's shot put final, again won by Cuba via Jorge Fernandez (61.79m), and Ayanna Alexander was fifth in the triple jump, her biggest leap being 13.71 metres. Yargelis Savigne of Cuba, the eventual winner, jumped 14.97 metres. □

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Stocks end mixed; Oil slide hits energy shares



A trader in the oil futures pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange tosses a ball in the air in New York, Monday, July 6, 2009.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

By **TIM PARADIS**,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors are fearing they may have bet too soon on an economic comeback.

Stocks ended mostly lower Monday as drops in prices for oil and other commodities had investors worrying again that demand for basic materials may remain slack. The major market indexes closed mixed but off of their lows for the day.

The drop in oil to a five-week low pushed energy and commodities stocks lower and sent investors into safe-haven parts of the market, like consumer goods producers. Occidental Petroleum slid 2.5 percent while Procter & Gamble Co., which makes Tide and Crest, rose 2 percent.

Back-and-forth trading Monday followed conflicting signs about the economy. Oil skidded on fears of weak demand, while

a trade group's report found that activity in the services industry rose in June to its best level in nine months.

Investors have become more cautious in recent weeks following a strong rally that began in March. Some traders fear they might have been too optimistic about how soon the economy might recover from a recession that began in December 2007.

"The markets are becoming more realistic," said Subodh Kumar, global investment strategist at Subodh Kumar & Associates in Toronto. "We can't snap our fingers and have recovery."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 44.13, or 0.5 percent, to 8,324.87, and the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.30, or 0.3 percent, to 898.72. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell 9.12, or 0.5 percent, to 1,787.40. Oil fell \$2.68 to settle at \$64.05 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Last week, oil hit an eight-month high above \$73.

In economic news, the Institute for Supply Management's services index rose to 47 in June from 44 in May, beating the expectation of 45.5 from economists polled by Thomson Reuters.

The relatively good showing, however, wasn't enough to assuage growing doubts about the economy that worsened last week on disappointing reports on consumer confidence and deep job cuts for June.

The stock market has relatively few guideposts to give it direction this week ahead of second-quarter earnings reports, which get under way Wednesday with Dow component Alcoa Inc. but don't pick up speed until next week.

Sound results at a Treasury Department auction of \$8 billion in 10-year Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, or TIPS, helped reassure investors that the government will be able to finance its spending plans to help revive the economy. Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note was up slightly at 3.51 percent, compared with late Thursday's 3.50 percent, and the yield on the three-month T-bill rose to 0.16 percent from 0.15 percent. U.S. markets were closed Friday for the July Fourth holiday. An analyst upgraded his rating on American Express Co., saying that the credit card company would be among the least affected by regulatory changes and

that worries about bad debt are easing. The stock rose \$1.25, or 5.6 percent, to \$23.52.

The drop commodities hit companies like Exxon Mobil Corp., which fell 39 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$68.10, and Occidental, down \$1.58, or 2.5 percent, at \$61.70.

Alcoa fell 60 cents, or 6.1 percent, to \$9.26, while Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. fell \$3.78, or 7.6 percent, to \$45.94.

Among consumer staples companies, P&G rose \$1.06, or 2.1 percent, to \$52.17.

The mixed trading comes after the market reached a plateau in mid-June, mainly holding on to the gains it notched this spring. Investors are looking for confirmation of an economic recovery to take stocks higher. The upcoming earnings season and any forecasts companies make about the rest of the year are sure to answer questions about where the market goes next.

"There is a sense that the fundamentals in the marketplace haven't caught up with the technical rally that we got in March," said Dan Deming, a trader with Strutland Equities in Chicago.

Three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to a light 4.63 billion shares, compared with 3.56 billion traded Thursday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 3.18, or 0.6 percent, to 494.03.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices also rose.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 1.2 percent, and France's CAC-40 slid 1.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.4 percent. □



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Jackson's mother loses control of son's estate



Fans wait in line to sign a large poster of Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Monday, July 6, 2009. The Staples Center is the planned location for Jackson's memorial service on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — A judge said Monday that Michael Jackson's longtime attorney and a family friend should take over the pop singer's estate for now, rejecting a request from Jackson's mother to be put in charge or share control.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff backed attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain, who had been designated in Jackson's 2002 will as the people he wanted to administer his estate. Attorneys for the pop singer's mother repeatedly objected to their appointment at Monday's court hearing.

"It's our desire to do everything we can to carry out Michael Jackson's wishes and to maximize the estate," said Howard Weitzman, who spoke after the hearing on behalf of Branca. Weitzman issued a statement later calling the judge's ruling "the correct decision."

The singer's mother, Katherine Jackson, had applied to oversee her son's estate, but that was before the 2002 will surfaced. Her attorney, Burt Levitch, expressed concerns about McClain and Branca's financial leadership.

Jackson died June 25, deeply in debt. But a court filing estimates that his estate will be worth more than \$500 million. His assets are destined for a private trust.

A public memorial has been scheduled for Jackson in

downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday. Dozens of police officers and a fire truck were parked outside Dodger Stadium on Monday, where ticket winners could start picking up their coveted passes to the Staples Center ceremony.

More than 1.6 million people registered to win the free tickets — two per person — and only 8,750 names were chosen. Los Angeles officials are concerned about other fans clogging city streets.

Representatives for Jackson's family released a list of participants Monday that includes Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Kobe Bryant, Brooke Shields, Motown founder Berry Gordy, Lionel Richie, John Mayer, Usher, Jennifer Hudson and Martin Luther King III and his sister Bernice.

One person who won't be at the memorial is Debbie Rowe, Jackson's ex-wife and the mother of Jackson's two oldest children. She had planned to attend, but backed out Monday.

"The onslaught of media attention has made it clear her attendance would be an unnecessary distraction to an event that should focus exclusively on Michael's legacy," Rowe attorney Marta Almi said in a statement. "Debbie will continue to celebrate Michael's memory privately."

Lucky fans celebrated when they got an e-mail saying they had scored the hottest ticket in

town. "Congratulations, your application was successful," said the message sent to Deka Motanya, 27, of San Francisco.

She immediately Twittered: "OMG OMG OMG OMG i got tickets to the michael jackson memorial service!!!" Throughout Monday, both eBay and Craigslist removed posts on their respective sites that attempted to sell tickets to the memorial service.

On eBay, bids were reaching as high as \$3,000, though it was impossible to verify the seriousness of those offers. On Craigslist, asking prices also were in the thousands. Some unable to attend simply wanted to give away their tickets — as one post read — "to only true fans."

Jackson's family had wanted Beckloff, the judge in the estate case, to delay the appointment of McClain and Branca as temporary administrators of the pop superstar's estate, a person close to the Jacksons said.

The family wanted more time to look deeper into Michael Jackson's affairs, to see if another will emerges, and to accommodate Jackson's memorial service, said a person close to the family who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly.

Katherine Jackson's attorneys also had asked that she be appointed to serve as a co-administrator with Branca and McClain. Beckloff refused to grant that request, too.

The authority Branca and McClain have on Jackson's estate will expire Aug. 3, when another hearing will be held.

"Mr. Branca and Mr. McClain for the next month are at the helm of the ship," Beckloff said.

Attorneys also disclosed that another Jackson will from 1997 has been lodged with the court, but will only become a factor if the 2002 will is invalidated. Details of the older will were not disclosed. Levitch, an attorney for Katherine Jackson, told Beckloff that Branca had previously been removed

from financial positions of authority by Jackson. Branca's attorney says he was rehired by Jackson on June 17, days before Jackson's death.

Katherine Jackson did not appear at Monday's hearing. Branca did attend.

Levitch said it was unclear whether McClain would serve as an administrator because he was of ailing health. Attorneys for McClain and Branca

described him as having a physical disability but having a completely sound mind. They also noted a decades-long relationship with the Jackson family.

The judge granted Branca and McClain several powers over the estate, including the rights to negotiate a settlement with concert promoter AEG Live over refunds for Jackson's canceled London shows. □

Debbie Rowe Skips Memorial in Wake of Paparazzi Bum Rush



Marcus Errico

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Being the former Mrs. Michael Jackson ain't easy these days.

After being off the radar for years, Debbie Rowe, the mother of Jackson's two oldest children, is back in the paparazzi crosshairs.

On Sunday, as Rowe made her way to the Great Wall restaurant out in the relative boonies of Palmdale, Calif., she found herself fending off a swarm of shutterbugs, peppering her with questions about Jackson and her potential bid for custody of the kids. The onrush was too much for Rowe, who blurted out: "Are you ready to get your butt kicked? Don't [bleep]ing touch me!"

It might have also influenced Rowe to stay away from the Jackson memorial Tuesday in L.A.

Rowe had originally planned on attending—Marc Schaffel, a former Jackson business associate and acquaintance of Rowe said as much during an appearance today on Good Morning America.

"Yes, Debbie will attend. We just got confirmation last night from the people who are handling the VIP seats," he said. But then, a few hours later, her lawyer retracted the RSVP.

"Although Debbie had originally planned to attend tomorrow's Staples Center memorial service, we have concluded with Debbie that she will not be attending," said attorney Marta Almi.

"The onslaught of media attention has made it clear her attendance would be an unnecessary distraction to an event that should focus exclusively on Michael's legacy. Debbie will continue to celebrate Michael's memory privately." □



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On Obama's Watch

William Kristol

Washington (The Weekly Standard) Vol. 014, Issue 40 - 7/13/2009
— On June 20, after a week of post-Iranian-election presidential mealy-mouthing, and a day after both houses of Congress had passed resolutions condemning the behavior of the Iranian regime, the White House put out a statement from President Obama. It began:

The Iranian government must understand that the world is watching. We mourn each and every innocent life that is lost. We call on the Iranian government to stop all violent and unjust actions against its own people.

It ended:

Martin Luther King once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." I believe that. The international community believes that. And right now, we are bearing witness to the Iranian people's belief in that truth, and we will continue to bear witness.

Leave aside the questionable notion that the "international community" believes the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice. Focus on what is truly startling: The president of the United States apparently believes the government of Iran needed to hear from him that "the world is watching." Why did he suppose the regime was busy shutting down websites and expelling foreign journalists or restricting them to their hotels in Tehran? What the Iranian regime cared about--what the Iranian regime was worried about--was what, if anything, the world would do. The answer, the American president told them, was that the world would do nothing.

Almost a half-century before, a young Democratic president had said this:

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

Once an American president had promised we would bear any burden. Our current president promises "we will continue to bear witness." It's quite an evolution.

To be fair, sometimes the point of bearing witness is to rouse men to action. Barack Obama, though, seems to take pride in bearing witness for the sake of . . . bearing witness. Unlike Martin Luther King, whom he invokes, but like the 1968 Democratic convention protesters whose chant he echoes ("The whole world is watching"), it's all about demonstrating one's moral superiority to the agents of injustice. It's not about correcting the injustice. As (former?) Obamaphile Leon Wieseltier recently noted, "Obama seems to think that there is some force in the admonition that the world is watching; but history plentifully demonstrates that when the world is watching, all the world does is watch." □

AP analysis:

Economic stress up in much of nation

By JEANNINE AVERSA

and MIKE SCHNEIDER,

Associated Press Writers

California, Michigan and South Carolina suffered the most financial pain in May as unemployment, home foreclosures and bankruptcies rose, according to The Associated Press' monthly analysis of economic stress in more than 3,100 U.S. counties.

The latest results of the AP's Economic Stress Index show the worst financial crisis since the 1930s causing lingering damage even as other signs suggest the recession is winding down.

The average county's Stress score, fueled by worsening unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies, rose to 10 in May, from 9.7 in April.

In May 2008, the average Stress score was 6.2. The pain was lower then because the economy was still expanding. In fact, the second quarter of 2008 was the last time the economy grew.

The AP calculates a score from 1 to 100 based on each county's unemployment, foreclosure and bankruptcy rates. The higher the score, the higher the economic stress.

Under a rough rule of thumb, a county is considered stressed when its score zooms past 11. In May, 36 percent of the counties scored 11 or higher, up from 34 percent in April. But the latest reading was slightly better than February and March, when nearly 40 percent of counties were at or above that threshold.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and many other economists predict the recession will end later this year. Even if it does, unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies are likely to keep climbing and cause further harm in many communities, economists predicted.

"The pain will linger well after the recession is over, making for a subdued economic recovery," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

Many economists say the recession eased from April to June and that the economy might start growing again as soon as the current July-to-September quarter.

Among states, California, Michigan and South Carolina showed the most economic stress in May, with their counties' scores averaging 16, 15.9 and 15, respectively, the AP analysis shows.

California has been battered by the housing bust, and Michigan has absorbed the brunt of the auto industry crisis.

"And South Carolina is a little bit of everything," said Sean Snaith, economics professor at the University of Central Florida. "Manufacturing and construction jobs have been hard hit in the state."

One common thread running through all three states is heavy jobs losses. Rising unemployment, in turn, is escalating foreclosures and bankruptcies.

The rising economic stress comes as California,

saddled with a whopping \$24.3 billion budget deficit, and other states are scrambling to cope with fiscal crises.

Over the past year, South Carolina, Oregon and Indiana have suffered the most stress. The loss of manufacturing jobs has deepened Indiana's and South Carolina's woes. And Oregon has been hurt by the real-estate bust and falling demand for construction materials like plywood and windows that are produced in the state.

North Dakota and Nebraska were the least stressed states in May, with county scores averaging under 5. Those Plains states also fared the best over the past year. North Dakota has been helped by the oil business. Nebraska has benefited from the relative strength of two of its main industries: agriculture and food-production.

"Those are also some of the few places that didn't experience the housing boom and therefore escaped the intense problems of the housing bust," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wachovia.

At the county level, the highest scores in May for those with populations of at least 25,000 residents were Imperial County, Calif.; Merced County, Calif.; Yuma County, Ariz.; Lauderdale County, Tenn.; and Stanislaus, Calif.

Merced and Stanislaus have endured some of the nation's highest foreclosure rates in the past year. And even in good times, Imperial, Lauderdale and Yuma have been among the most impoverished U.S. counties.

The counties (of at least 25,000 residents) that suffered the sharpest increases in stress scores over the past year were manufacturing communities: Williams County, Ohio; Elkhart County, Ind.; Huntingdon County, Pa.; Howard County, Ind.; Union County, S.C.; and Noble, Ind.

AP's analysis also found that foreclosure rates climbed over the past year in areas hardest hit by the housing crisis: Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada and metro Atlanta.

Foreclosures also jumped in some Utah counties that had experienced rapid growth in the past decade.

"It was a speculative bubble, and when the economy popped, it hit us hard," said Dean Cox, administrator for Washington County in southwest Utah, where the foreclosure rate more than doubled to 4 percent in the past year.

Bankruptcy rates also grew in areas where the housing bust struck hardest: Southern California, southern Oregon and Las Vegas.

"It's not surprising, since the inability to make your mortgage payment is a pretty good proxy of the financial situation households are in," said Samuel Gerdano, executive director of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Gerdano says he foresees an estimated 1.5 million bankruptcy filings this year — the most since the nation's bankruptcy laws were tightened in 2005. □

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PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

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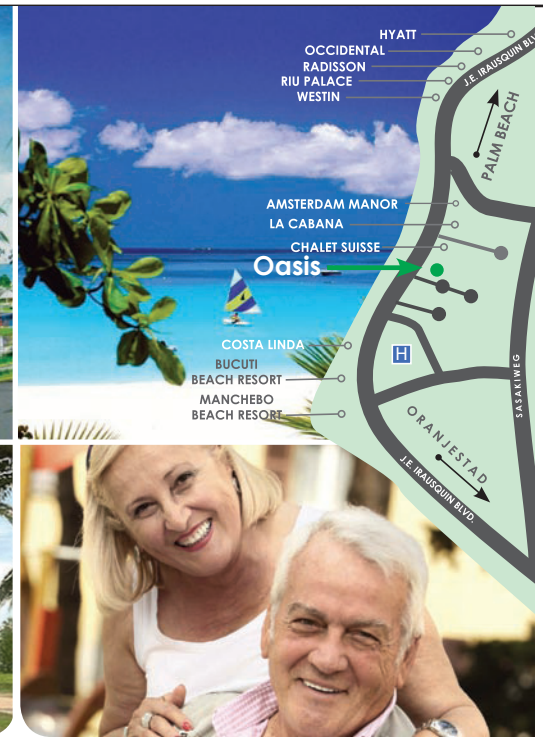
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Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

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U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev attend a joint press conference at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Monday, July 6, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama, Medvedev agree to pursue nuclear reduction

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a preliminary agreement Monday to reduce the world's two largest nuclear stockpiles by as much as a third, down to the lowest levels of any U.S.-Russia accord, and to counter what Obama called "a sense of drift" in the countries' relations.

"We must lead by example, and that's what we are doing here today," Obama declared in a Kremlin hall glittering in gold. "We resolve to reset U.S.-Russian relations so that we can cooperate more effectively in areas of common interest."

The document signed by the two leaders at a Moscow summit, Obama's first in Russia, is meant as a guide for negotiators as the nations work toward a replacement pact for the START arms control agreement that expires in December. The joint understanding also commits the countries to lower longer-range missiles for delivering nuclear bombs to between 500 and 1,100.

The limit for warheads would be in a range of 1,500 to 1,675 each. However, there are disagreements on what to count.

Medvedev called Monday's agreement a "reasonable compromise."

A White House statement said the new treaty

"will include effective verification measures" and Obama said it would be completed by the end of the year. He also held out hope to "move even beyond that in subsequent agreements and treaties" and said he wanted to host a summit on global nuclear security next year in the United States.

More broadly, Obama needs Russia's help in pressuring Iran and North Korea to give up their nuclear weapons ambitions, and also in tackling terrorism, global warming and worldwide economic woes. But ties are frayed over Moscow's war in Georgia last year and the U.S. plan for a new missile defense system in Eastern Europe, so Obama's desire to move forward is a huge test of his diplomatic skills. "The president and I agreed that the relationship between Russia and the United States has suffered from a sense of drift," he said at Medvedev's side. "President Medvedev and I are committed to leaving behind the suspicion and rivalry of the past."

His host expressed similar good will.

"This is the first but very important step in improving full-scale cooperation between our two countries, which would go to the benefit of both states," the Russian leader said. Injecting a note of caution, he said that discussions so far "cannot remove the burden of all the problems."

Continued on Next Page

SC cops say serial killer suspect slain in NC



Law enforcement officials process the scene of shooting in Dallas, N.C., Monday, July 6, 2009. South Carolina law enforcement officials say a burglary suspect slain in North Carolina is the serial killer who shot five people to death in South Carolina in recent days.

Associated Press

By MITCH WEISS

Associated Press Writer

GAFFNEY, S.C. — A man suspected of killing five people and terrorizing a South Carolina community was shot to death Monday by police investigating a burglary complaint at a home 30 miles away.

Continued on Page B5



In this video photo taken from CCTV via APTN, protesters turn over a police car on street in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Sunday, July 5, 2009. Nearly 1,000 protesters from a Muslim ethnic group rioted in China's far west, overturning barricades, attacking bystanders and clashing with police in violence that killed at least three people, including a policeman, state media and witnesses said.

Associated Press

Ethnic riots spread in China's west; 156 killed

WILLIAM FOREMAN

Associated Press Writer

URUMQI, China (AP) — Riots and street battles killed at least 156 people in China's western Xinjiang province, state media said Tuesday, and injured 828 others in the deadliest ethnic unrest to hit the region in decades. Officials said the death toll was expected to rise.

Continued on Page B6

NUCLEAR REDUCTION

Continued from Page B1

The two leaders appeared together at a news conference where they and other officials from both countries signed and exchanged documents with great flourish and much handshaking.

Among the side deals meant to sweeten Obama's two days of talks here and show progress toward improving badly damaged U.S.-Russian relations was permission from Moscow for the United States to transport arms across its land and airspace into Afghanistan for the war there. Obama said the deal will save the U.S. "both time and money," to the tune of \$133 million a year, by waiving transit fees and shortening flying time.

They outlined other areas in which they said their countries would work together to help stabilize Afghanistan, including increasing assistance to the Afghan army and police, and training counternarcotics personnel.

Among other agreements was the resumption of military

cooperation, suspended after Russia invaded neighboring Georgia last August and sent relations into a nosedive.

The leaders also promised fresh cooperation on public health issues and revived a joint commission to try to account for missing service members of both countries dating back to World War II. The commission was first created by the first President Bush and President Boris Yeltsin in the early 1990s, but the Russians later downgraded their participation. The U.S. hope is that the Russians will now open some of their more sensitive archives to U.S. researchers seeking details about missing American servicemen.

Yet the two sides remain stalemated over the U.S. pursuit of a missile-defense system in Europe, pushed aggressively by President George W. Bush and still under review by Obama's 7-month-old administration. Both sides hardened their positions ahead of the summit, and Obama gave a lengthy rationale for



President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, rear, look on as Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen, left, and his Russian counterpart after signing the Joint Understanding for the START Follow-on Treaty, Monday, July 6, 2009, at the Palace of the Kremlin, in Moscow.

Associated Press

the system at Medvedev's side.

Obama suggested the United States has a right to pursue defensive systems separate from the offensive weapons that are the subject of most arms control negotiations. Obama repeated the U.S. position that the planned system is aimed at intercepting

missiles from Iran and has nothing to do with countering "a mighty Russian arsenal," as many in Russia suspect.

Medvedev called it "a difficult area for our discussion," but suggested that the new openness between the two countries could help.

Obama said he trusts the Russian leader to follow through on the agreements they struck. And he refused to be drawn into a debate over who really holds the reins of power in Russia, widely believed to be Medvedev's predecessor and mentor, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. "My understanding is, President Medvedev is the president ... and Prime Minister Putin is the prime minister," Obama simply said.

Obama, who meets with Putin on Tuesday, caused a stir in Russia before his trip by telling The Associated Press that Putin has to learn that "the old Cold War approaches to U.S.-Russian relations is outdated."

The summit starts a weeklong trip for Obama that also features G-8 meetings and a visit with the pope in Italy, and a speech in Ghana.

After Obama landed in Moscow under drizzly gray skies, he introduced his wife, Michelle, and their two daughters to Russian officials waiting to greet them. The entourage then headed to a wreath-laying ceremony at Russia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Having enjoyed adoring crowds in other parts of Europe, Obama will face a

far more skeptical Russian population. He will outline his vision for U.S.-Russian relations at a speech Tuesday at the New Economic School. Just 15 percent of Russians say the U.S. is playing a positive role in the world; most said the United States abuses its power and makes Russia do what the U.S. wants, according to the University of Maryland's WorldPublicOpinion.org on Sunday.

"I would like to see America meddle less in other countries," said Valentina Titova, a 60-year-old retired economist strolling not far from the Kremlin.

Between them, the two countries possess more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons.

The 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, led each country to cut its nuclear warheads to about 6,000.

The 2002 Treaty of Moscow called for further cuts to between 1,700 and 2,200 operationally deployed warheads by 2012.

But Moscow and Washington have long argued over what weapons should be subject to cuts.

Russia wants to limit missiles, bombers and submarines along with nuclear warheads, just as the original START treaty did. The 2002 agreement applied only to warheads. Also, the United States has been prepared to count only the warheads ready for launch, while Russia wants to count those in storage as well. □

Officials mark completion of border berm

THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP)

— A scrub-filled gorge historically used as a staging area for immigrants to gather by the hundred before dashing illegally into the U.S. has been all but sealed off by a massive berm topped with a steel-meshed fence and bright lighting.

The finished Smuggler's Gulch project was unveiled Monday. It involved moving 1.3 million cubic yards of dirt to fill in part of the canyon, which straddles the border just inland from the Pacific Ocean and alongside the Tijuana River estuary.

At a cost of about \$59 million, and 12 years of planning, environmental reviews and legal challenges, the project has transformed the look of the westernmost edge of the border, an environmentally sensitive area that is a key stopover for migratory birds. Gone are the precarious switchback roads that once zigzagged up either side of the canyon. It now is filled



Officials gather along the fence for a ceremony at the completed Smuggler's Gulch project along the U.S.-Mexico border Monday July 6, 2009 in San Diego. The ceremony was held to mark the completion of the controversial infrastructure and fencing project. The fence is part of an effort to complete a secondary fence from the Pacific Ocean to the Otay Mesa Port of Entry.

Associated Press

in with dirt and spanned by the light-brown berm that has a smooth asphalt road running along its top.

Gone too are the crowds of would-be immigrants and the vendors that catered to them on the Mexican side of the gorge. "This is night and day compared to what it used to be," U.S. Border Patrol supervisory agent Daryl Reed said, recalling a period in the '90s when an agent could

arrest dozens of people in a single shift.

The project is part of an older plan dating back to 1996, when Congress approved a 14-mile (23-kilometer) stretch of fence inland from the ocean. Filling in the gorge and work on the surrounding area proved highly contentious as environmentalists worried about potential damage to sensitive habitats in the estuary. □

Robert McNamara, Vietnam War architect, dies at 93

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Robert S. McNamara, the brainy Pentagon chief who directed the escalation of the Vietnam War despite private doubts the war was winnable or worth fighting, died Monday at 93.

McNamara revealed his misgivings three decades after the American defeat that some called “McNamara’s war.”

“We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations acted according to what we thought were the principles and traditions of our country. But we were wrong. We were terribly wrong,” McNamara told The Associated Press in 1995, the year his best-selling memoir appeared.

McNamara died at 5:30 a.m. at his home, his wife Diana told the AP. She said he had been in failing health for some time.

Closely identified with the war’s early years, McNamara was a forceful public optimist. He predicted that American intervention would enable the South Vietnamese, despite internal feuds, to stand by themselves “by the end of 1965.” The war ground on until 1975, with more than 58,000 U.S. deaths.

Lawyerly and a student of statistical analysis, McNamara was recruited to run the Pentagon by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 from the presidency of the Ford Motor Co. — where he and a group

of colleagues had been known as the “whiz kids.”

He stayed in the defense post for seven years, longer than anyone else since the job’s creation in 1947. He left on the verge of a nervous breakdown and became president of the World Bank. In the new post, he threw himself into the intricacies of international development and argued that improving lives was a more promising path to peace than building up arms and armies. McNamara was a distinctive figure, with frameless glasses and slicked-back hair. Anti-war critics ridiculed him as an out-of-touch technocrat and made much of the fact that his middle name was “Strange.”

Simon and Garfunkel worked his name into a ditty about an overbearing government, and he once had to flee an appearance at Harvard through underground utility tunnels. By the end of his Pentagon tenure, McNamara had come to doubt the value of widespread U.S. bombing, and he was fighting with his generals. President Lyndon Johnson lost faith or patience in him; McNamara would later write that he didn’t know if he quit or was fired.

In the Kennedy administration, McNamara was a key figure in both the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1961 and the Cuban missile crisis 18 months later. The missile episode was the closest the world came to a nuclear confrontation between the Soviet Union and the

United States, and historians have pointed to McNamara’s role in steering internal debate away from a U.S. airstrike.

Reticent, McNamara long resisted offers to give a detailed accounting of his role in Vietnam. His son, who had protested the war his father helped to run, once said it was not within McNamara’s “scope” to be reflective about the war.

McNamara’s eventual mea culpa won him admiration from some former opponents of the war. Others said it was not enough, and three decades too late.

“Where was he when we needed him?” a Boston Globe editorial asked.

Ted Sorensen, a speechwriter and adviser who worked with McNamara in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, said the criticism missed the mark.

“Most military chieftains — presidents or Cabinet members or otherwise — don’t admit error, ever,” Sorensen said. “At least Bob had the courage and commitment to truth to put out that he was wrong and why it was wrong so that we could all learn the lessons from that.”

“In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam” appeared in 1995. McNamara disclosed that by 1967 he had deep misgivings about Vietnam — by then he had lost faith in America’s capacity to prevail over guerrillas who had driven the French from the same jungle countryside.



In a Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2001 file photo, Robert McNamara, right, defense secretary under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, makes a point as Peter Almond, center, co-producer of the film “Thirteen Days,” looks on during a forum at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara died Monday, July 6, 2009, according to his wife. He was 93. Theodore Sorensen, former special counsel to President Kennedy, is at left

Associated Press

Despite those doubts, he had continued to express public confidence that the application of enough American firepower would cause the Communists to make peace. In that period, the number of U.S. casualties — dead, missing and wounded — went from 7,466 to over 100,000.

McNamara wrote later that he and others had not asked five basic questions: “Was it true that the fall of South Vietnam would trigger the fall of all Southeast Asia? Would that constitute a grave threat to the West’s security? What kind of war — conventional or guerrilla — might develop? Could the U.S. win with its troops fighting alongside the

South Vietnamese? Should the U.S. not know the answers to all these questions before deciding whether to commit troops?” He discussed similar themes in the 2003 documentary “The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara.” With the U.S. in the first year of the war in Iraq, it became a popular and timely art-house attraction and won the Oscar for best documentary feature. McNamara served as the World Bank president for 12 years. He tripled its loans to developing countries and changed its emphasis from grandiose industrial projects to rural development before retiring in 1981. □

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Top senator, nation's hospitals near health care deal



In this April 2, 2009 file photo, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., left, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa talk on Capitol Hill in Washington.

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — With health care legislation at a crossroads, the nation's hospitals are near agreement with a key lawmaker and the White House to pick up part of the cost of President Barack Obama's plan for expanded coverage, officials said Monday.

The precise size of any deal was not available, although several days ago, talks were focused in the area \$155 billion over a decade. These officials said under the emerging agreement, hospitals would accept lower-than-anticipated payments under Medicare and Medicaid, the federal health care programs for seniors and the poor.

Any agreement involving Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the White House would give fresh momentum to efforts to write bipartisan legislation on an issue that Obama has placed atop his list of domestic priorities.

Obama has said he wants to sign a bill in October that would reduce medical costs and provide coverage to

nearly 50 million uninsured Americans.

Baucus and the White House reached agreement with the drug companies two weeks ago for pharmaceutical firms to spend \$80 billion over a decade, divided between closing a coverage gap under Medicare and defraying part of the cost of providing health care to millions who lack it.

Last week, Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, gave a boost to the White House when it announced support for a requirement on large firms to offer health coverage to their work force.

Several officials said no final agreement with the hospitals had been sealed. But they added that a formal announcement could come as early as Wednesday at the White House with Vice President Joseph Biden attending in place of Obama, who is overseas. The officials, who have been closely following the negotiations, spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the confidential nature of the discussions.

Baucus said in a brief interview last month he was

negotiating with several health care industries in a search for money to cover the cost of legislation, which is expected to reach \$1 trillion.

Elizabeth Lietz, a spokeswoman for the American Hospital Association, said the group is "talking with folks on health care reform, including the Finance Committee and the White House and other groups. But at this time we have nothing to report."

A spokesman at the Federation of American Hospitals declined to comment.

The nation's 624 Catholic hospitals are also involved in the discussions. A spokesman, Fred Caesar, also declined comment.

Under legislation taking shape in the House as well as the Senate, millions of uninsured Americans would receive coverage over the next few years, creating a huge new pool of customers — and possible source of income — for hospitals, drug companies, doctors and insurance companies. As a result, these industries

are under pressure from the Obama administration and lawmakers to give up some of the fees they are currently scheduled to receive under the current system.

Hospitals, for example, receive special payments under both Medicare and Medicaid for taking care of patients who lack coverage.

The push for health care overhaul is at a critical juncture as Congress returns from a weeklong July 4 recess.

In the House, majority Democrats from three committees hope to have a combined bill ready for a vote on the floor by the end of the month.

In the Senate, two committees — Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions — are at work on legislation that eventually will have to be merged into one.

Baucus, as chairman of the Finance Committee, has been negotiating privately for days with Sen. Chuck Grassley in an attempt to reach a bipartisan agreement.

A consensus appears to hinge

on creation of a compromise between the Democratic demand for a government-backed insurance plan to compete with private industry, and strong Republican refusal to accept any such arrangement.

Under the most prominent compromise under discussion, a nonprofit cooperative would be established to sell insurance, with federal startup money.

Failing a bipartisan deal, Baucus presumably would have to go ahead with a far different, Democrats-only measure, with a stronger government-run insurance option as well as other provisions that draw GOP objections.

At the same time, the Senate Health panel is expected to wrap up work in the next several days on a companion bill that includes the government-run option. There, final details must still be worked out over one major controversy, which includes the length of protection from competition biologic drug makers should receive from new products. □

Actor Kal Penn starts work as White House liaison



In this April 13, 2009, file photo, actor Kal Penn, left, stands with Michael Strautmanis, Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Liaison, center, and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, at the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. Penn started a new job Monday, July 6, 2009, as a liaison between the White House and Asian communities. The Indian-American actor is taking a break from Hollywood to work as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison.

NATASHA T. METZLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actor Kal Penn started a new job Monday as a liaison between the White House and Asian communities in the United States.

The Indian-American actor, whose parents emigrated from the Indian state of Gujarat, is taking a break from Hollywood to work as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison. His specialty will be to connect President Barack

Associated Press

Obama with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States, as well as arts groups. Penn had a recurring role on the Fox television network's hit show "House" and starred in several films including "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle" and its sequel "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay."

Penn, who backed Obama during the campaign, said the new job has nothing to do with his life as an actor. "I expect to be treated just like any other staff member," he told reporters on a conference call. He is even applying his quest for a fresh start to his identity, saying he will use his given name, Kalpen Modi, instead of his acting moniker while working for the Obama administration. Penn described the public liaison office as the "front door to the White House." He said his job would be to engage with constituent communities and make sure they feel that they have a seat at the table. □

WTC developer threatens arbitration at ground zero

AMY WESTFELDT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The private developer of the World Trade Center site threatened Monday to go to an arbitrator unless he and the site's owner quickly settle a monthslong impasse over how much each should pay to build office towers at ground zero.

Larry Silverstein, who wants to rebuild three office towers at the site of the Sept. 11 attacks, gave the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey two weeks' notice before he would go to an arbitrator to resolve issues with his lease.

Terms of the 2006 lease require Silverstein and the Port Authority to go to arbitration before going to court.

The two sides have been squabbling for months about how quickly to build the office towers and how much each should pay to do so. Silverstein has asked for the agency to front as much as \$3.2 billion in financing to build two of the three towers; the agency has

said it would back financing for one.

Interventions by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and two governors who control the Port Authority have failed to reach an agreement.

Silverstein said the arbitration notice is "designed to inject a renewed sense of urgency to these discussions."

"One way or another, we must take any and all steps necessary to resolve, once and for all, the disputes that have arisen as a result of the Port Authority's continued and admitted delays," he said.

Silverstein said the agency won't meet construction deadlines that were set in a lease agreement to build a multibillion-dollar transit hub, a vehicle security center and support for a city subway line. The earliest deadlines for that are two years away, when the agency would be in default on the agreement.

If the case went to arbitration, Silverstein would seek financial

damages from the agency for delays.

The Port Authority has said it can't use billions in government money to back the private developer's venture, even though the project is on the land it owns and largely funded with Sept. 11 insurance money.

The executive director, Christopher Ward, said an arbitrator's ruling wouldn't resolve how many towers the agency would agree to finance, since it's not part of the latest lease.

"That is why the Port Authority has offered several different proposals that would give Mr. Silverstein the ability to build a rational amount of office space while protecting scarce public resources for the public projects on the site," Ward said.

The agency has said it wouldn't be able to pay for other projects like a rail tunnel serving Penn Station or improvements to LaGuardia Airport if it guaranteed financing for Silverstein towers.

They watched two people who sometimes visit the neighboring home get out of the vehicle, followed by a third man who matched the description of the killer: tall, heavysset, unshaven and wearing a baseball cap. The man appeared to be very drunk, Mike Valentine said.

When officers went inside, Terri Valentine said she heard someone yell "put it down" and heard a gunshot.

Then "bam, bam, bam, bam. Next thing I know, all of Gaston County was here," she said.

Gaston County police said the other two people were in custody, but did not indicate whether they were facing charges.

The Gaffney killings happened in a 10-mile area over six days. A peach farmer was killed June 27, an 83-year-old woman and her daughter were found bound and shot four days later, and the next day a father and his teen daughter were shot in their family's furniture store.

SLED Chief Reggie Lloyd said the investigation isn't over, and Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton said investigators



This is an updated composite drawing of the suspected serial killer in Cherokee County, South Carolina made available on Friday, July 3, 2009. Sheriff's deputies searched Friday, July 3, 2009 for a serial killer blamed for four deaths over the past six days as terrified residents wondered who might be next.

Associated Press will trace the suspect's recent activities and trying to figure out if he has killed other people in other places.

Blanton said he hopes the arrest calms the fears of 54,000 people in the county 50 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., known for its peach orchards and mills.

"We feel the victims' pain," Blanton said. "This isn't over. We're just changing gears." □



In this photo provided by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, construction workers finish pouring concrete, Wednesday, July 1, 2009, for the street-level plaza outside the main entrance for the planned Freedom Tower at former site of the World Trade Center in New York. The skyscraper is set to be completed by 2013.

Associated Press

The impasse threatens to stall construction of a half-dozen projects on half of the site, including the transit hub and office towers, all surrounding the Sept. 11 memorial.

The two sides haven't spoken directly in more than two weeks, when meetings spurred largely by city officials stopped. They have spoken behind the scenes to Bloomberg administration officials.

The city doesn't own the 16-acre (6.5-hectare) site in lower Manhattan but has agreed to lease office space in one of

Silverstein's towers.

The mayor has been more critical of the Port Authority's position in the talks; he called Silverstein's move Monday "one step closer to stalemate."

"Unfortunately, not everyone has worked as hard as necessary to find a solution," Bloomberg said. "No one disputes that the Port Authority is engaged in many projects important to our region, but pitting those projects against the development of the World Trade Center site creates a false choice." □

SERIAL KILLER

Continued from Page B1

Ballistics tests on a gun and bullets found with the man in Gastonia, N.C., match those used in a weeklong killing spree in and around Gaffney, said State Law Enforcement Deputy Director Neil Dolan. "We have him. He's our serial killer," Dolan said Monday night.

Authorities did not release the man's name, but said he has had several encounters with law enforcement over the years.

Dolan said the physical evidence leaves no doubt the slain suspect was the person who shot five people to death over six days. But investigators still have no idea why he started the killing spree June 27.

"He was unpredictable. He was scary. He was weird," Dolan said.

The case came to an end in Gastonia early Monday after a couple called police to report a suspicious sport utility vehicle in their neighborhood.

Mike and Terri Valentine were on edge because the Gaffney serial killer was just a short drive away.

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Rebiya Kadeer, president of the Uyghurs American Association sits in her seat before the start of her news conference at the Nationals Press Club in Washington, Monday, July 6, 2009. Kadeer, the exiled leader of a Muslim minority group is denying Chinese government accusations that she incited riots that have left 156 people dead in western China.

Associated Press

ETHNIC RIOTS

Continued from Page B1

Police sealed off streets in parts of the provincial capital, Urumqi, after discord between ethnic Muslim Uighur people and China's Han majority erupted into violence. Witnesses reported a new, smaller protest Monday in a second city, Kashgar.

The unrest is another troubling sign for Beijing at how rapid economic development has failed to stem — and even has exacerbated — resentment among ethnic minorities, who say they are being marginalized in their homelands as Chinese migrants pour in.

Columns of paramilitary police in green camouflage uniforms, helmets and flak vests marched Monday around Urumqi's main bazaar — a largely Uighur neighborhood

— carrying batons and shields. Mobile phone service and the social networking site Twitter were blocked, and Internet links were also cut or slowed down.

Rioters on Sunday overturned barricades, attacked vehicles and houses, and clashed violently with police in Urumqi, according to media and witness accounts. State television aired footage showing protesters attacking and kicking people on the ground. Other people, who appeared to be Han Chinese, sat dazed with blood pouring down their faces.

In a one-sentence reported released early Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said 156 people had died. There was little immediate explanation for the high death toll and officials did not say how many of the victims were Han or Uighurs. Xinhua cited Xinjiang's police chief Liu Yaohua as saying that the death toll was expected to rise.

The government accused a Uighur businesswoman living in the U.S. of inciting the riots through phone calls and "propaganda" spread on Web sites.

Witnesses and state media said the violence started only after police arrived to disperse a peaceful protest demanding justice for two Uighurs killed last month during a fight with Han co-workers at a factory in southern China.

Thousands of people took part in Sunday's disturbance, unlike recent sporadic separatist violence carried out by small groups in Xinjiang. The clashes echoed the violent protest that rocked Tibet last year and left many Tibetan communities living under clamped-down security ever since.

Tensions between Uighurs and the majority Han Chinese are never far from the surface in Xinjiang, a sprawling region rich in minerals and oil that borders eight Central Asian nations. Many Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gers) yearn for independence and some militants have waged a sporadic, violent separatist campaign.

Uighurs make up the largest ethnic group in Xinjiang, but not in the capital of Urumqi, which has attracted large numbers of

Han Chinese migrants. The city of 2.3 million is now overwhelmingly Chinese — a source of frustration for native Uighurs who say they are being squeezed out.

Kakharman Khozamberdi — leader of a Uighur political movement in Kazakhstan, where the Uighur minority has its largest presence outside China — said machine gun fire was heard all night long. One witness told Khozamberdi 10 bodies were seen near a bazaar, including those of women and children.

In Geneva, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged China and any country with violent protests to use extreme care. He urged all governments to "protect the life and safety of civilians."

About 1,000 to 3,000 Uighur demonstrators had gathered Sunday in the regional capital for a protest that apparently spun out of control. Accounts differed over what happened, but the violence seemed to have started when the crowd of protesters refused to disperse. Xinhua reported hundreds of people were arrested and checkpoints ringed the city to prevent rioters from escaping. Mobile phone service provided by at least one company was cut Monday to stop people from organizing further action in Xinjiang. Internet access was blocked or unusually slow in Urumqi on Monday. Videos and text updates about the riots were removed from China-based social networking sites such as Youku, a YouTube-like video service, and Fanfou, a Chinese micro-blogging Web site similar to Twitter.

Major Chinese news portals relied solely on Xinhua for news of the event and turned off the comment function at the bottom of the stories so people could not publicly react.

Witnesses said the protests spread to Kashgar, a second city in Xinjiang, on Monday afternoon. A Uighur man there said he was among more than 300 protesters who demonstrated outside the Id Kah Mosque. He said they were surrounded by police, who asked them to calm down. "We were yelling at each other but there were no clashes, no physical contact," said the man, who gave his name as Yagupu.

Calls to Kashgar's public security bureau rang, then were disconnected.

Uighur activists and exiles say the millions of Han Chinese who have settled here in recent years are gradually squeezing the Turkic people out of their homeland.

But many Chinese believe the Uighurs are backward and ungrateful for the economic development the Chinese have brought to the poor region.

Wu Nong, director of the news office of the Xinjiang provincial government, said more than 260 vehicles were attacked or set on fire in Sunday's unrest and 203 shops were damaged.

Uighur exiles condemned the crackdown.

"We ask the international community to condemn China's killing of innocent Uighurs. This is a very dark day in the history of the Uighur people," said Alim Seytoff, vice president of the Washington, D.C.-based Uyghur American Association.

Chinese officials singled out the leader of the association — Rebiya Kadeer, a former prominent Xinjiang businesswoman now living in Washington — for inciting the violence.


"Rebiya had phone conversations with people in China on July 5 in order to incite, and Web sites ... were used to orchestrate the incitement and spread propaganda," Xinjiang Governor Nur Bekri said on television early Monday.

Xinjiang's top Communist Party official, Wang Lequan, called the riots "a profound lesson learned in blood."

"We must tear away Rebiya's mask and let the world see her true nature," Wang said.

The government has accused Kadeer of having a hand in many of Xinjiang's problems since her release from prison into U.S. exile in 2005. The Foreign Ministry has publicly accused the 62-year-old of having links to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a group the U.S. put on its terrorist blacklist.

Beijing has not provided evidence to support the allegation, and Kadeer denies the claim. She has repeatedly called for nonviolent protest.



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	daily: 4.15 6.15			
	matinee: 12.20 2.20			
R	PUBLIC ENEMIES		NEW	
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	matinee: 12.05 2.50			late show: 11.30
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2			
	daily: 6.00 9.00			
	matinee: 12.00 2.50			late show: 11.50
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123			
	daily: 5.15 7.30 9.45			
	matinee: 12.40 3.05			late show: 12.00
PG-13	YEAR ONE			
	daily: 5.50 8.00 10.05			
	matinee: 1.30 3.40			late show: 12.10
PG	TERMINATOR SALVATION			
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PG-13	IMAGINE THAT			
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PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS		NEW	
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	matinee: 12.05 2.50			late show: 11.35
PG-13	THE PROPOSAL			
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PG	LAND OF THE LOST			
	daily: 10.00			
	matinee:			late show: 12.05
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123			
	daily: 5.30 7.45 10.00			
	matinee: 12.55 3.10			late show: 12.10
PG	IMAGINE THAT			
	daily: 4.40			
	matinee: 12.00 2.20			late show:
PG-13	YEAR ONE			
	daily: 7.00 9.20			
	matinee:			late show: 11.30
PG-13	THE SOLOIST			
	daily: 5.50 8.15			
	matinee: 12.55 3.20			late show: 11.00

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

U.S. admiral lauds N.Korean ship surveillance effort

KELLY OLSEN

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The impending return home of a North Korean ship suspected of possibly carrying illicit cargo shows that efforts are working to enforce U.N. sanctions imposed against the country after its nuclear and missile tests, the chief of U.S. Naval operations said Monday.

The U.N. Security Council punished the North after its May nuclear test with a resolution and tough sanctions to clamp down on alleged trading of banned arms and weapons-related material, including authorizing searches of suspect ships.

The reclusive nation has engaged in a series of provocative acts this year and increased tensions Saturday,

firing seven ballistic missiles into the ocean off its east coast in violation of three U.N. resolutions. It was the North's biggest display of missile firepower in three years.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council issued a condemnation of North Korea's recent missile tests after holding a closed meeting Monday in New York. The meeting was requested by Japan.

The cargo vessel Kang Nam 1 was tracked by the U.S. Navy after it left port last month. The ship, which was believed destined for Myanmar, suddenly turned back on June 28. South Korean defense officials said it had entered North Korean waters and should reach port late Monday.

"I think that's an indication of the way the international

community came together," Adm. Gary Roughead, the chief of Naval operations, said of the ship's reversal.

Speaking to reporters in Seoul, he called the monitoring of the Kang Nam I "a very effective way" of stopping proliferation, and said the Navy will continue to "conduct operations" that support the effort to sanction the North.

The Kang Nam 1, which has drawn attention in the past for suspected proliferation activities, was the first ship to be monitored under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1874 passed last month.

It bans North Korea from selling a range of arms and weapons-related material, and allows other countries to request boarding and inspection of suspected ships, though the vessels do not have



U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead gestures while answering a reporter's question during a news conference at the U.S. military base in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, July 6, 2009.

Associated Press

to give permission.

North Korea has said it would consider interception of its ships a declaration of war.

It remains unclear, however, exactly why the Kang Nam 1 turned back or what kind of cargo was on board. Speculation has included the possibility it was carrying weapons, possibly to Myanmar.

The ship has been suspected of transporting banned goods to the Southeast Asian country in the past.

Separately, Akitaka Saiki, Japan's envoy to the stalled six-nation nuclear negotiations with North Korea, said that efforts to implement the U.N. resolution will yield results.

"We expect numerous effects through consistent implementation," he told reporters in Seoul after meeting with South Korean officials.

Malaysia, meanwhile, pledged Monday to work with the United States to block the North from using the Southeast Asian nation's banks to fund any weapons deals. Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said his government "does not condone" any illegal activities.

The assurance came as Philip Goldberg, a U.S. envoy in charge of coordinating the implementation of sanctions against Pyongyang, met with Malaysian officials.

South Korean media have reported that North Korea sought payment through a bank in Malaysia for

the suspected shipment of weapons to Myanmar via the Kang Nam I.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey is also traveling to China and Hong Kong this week to gain support for U.S. efforts to keep North Korea from using banks and businesses to buy and sell missile and nuclear technology. He arrives Monday and will meet with government officials and private sector executives Wednesday through Friday.

The Naval operations chief denounced North Korea for its volley of weekend missile tests, calling them "very unhelpful and clearly counter to the desires of the international community for a peaceful and stable region."

The tests added fuel to tensions already running high after the May 25 underground nuclear test blast.

Japan's defense chief called the North's launches "a serious act of provocation" that poses a threat to his country. Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada also said Pyongyang may fire more missiles.

The recent launches on July 4 — the U.S. Independence Day holiday — appeared to be a poke at Washington as it moves to enforce U.N. sanctions as well as its own against North Korea.

Despite speculation that the North might try to launch a long-range missile toward Hawaii, U.S. defense officials said there have been no imminent signs of such a move. □

Nigeria militants claim to hijack chemical tanker

By BASHIR ADIGUN

Associated Press Writer

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's main militant group said Monday it had seized a chemical tanker with six foreign crew members aboard and had attacked a second oil facility following a vow to step up the intensity of its attacks.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in an e-mail statement that the tanker was seized Sunday about 20 nautical miles from Escravos in the south of the country and would be held until further notice.

It said three of those aboard are Russian, two are from the Philippines and the sixth crew member is from India.

"Their arrest is meant to serve as a warning to others that there are root issues that have to be resolved with the Nigerian government before normalcy can resume," the group said in its statement.

More than 200 foreign workers have been taken captive in the restive Niger Delta since violence increased in 2006, with most released unharmed after a ransom is paid.

The militants' claim came a day after they vowed to carry out "phased attacks that increase in intensity until its goal has been achieved" as part of an operation dubbed Hurricane Moses.

The militants say they are fighting to force the federal government to devote more oil-industry funds to the southern region, which remains deeply poor despite its natural

bounty.

But the government considers most of the militants criminals who use politics to mask their true intentions — the lucrative theft and overseas sale of crude oil stolen from Nigeria's network of wells and pipelines.

Last month, the Nigerian government announced a 60-day amnesty for militants willing to turn themselves in. But the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta dismissed the offer, saying an amnesty should be aimed at criminals, not "freedom fighters," and stressing that its own members would not negotiate now.

Also Monday, the group claimed it had destroyed a strategic Chevron facility late Sunday. Chevron Nigeria Ltd. confirmed there had been a breach in offshore operations in Delta State.

"No one was hurt as a result of the breach and, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, we are working to ensure the safety of our people, restore the integrity of our operations and are not speculating on any comment while investigations are being undertaken," the company said in a statement.

The militants' claim came a day after the militants said they had attacked a Royal Dutch Shell oil facility. Shell spokesman Tony Okonedo said "there was a report of an attack on our facility and we are still investigating."

Past militant attacks on oil infrastructure in the area have trimmed output in Africa's biggest oil producer by about 25 percent. □

Bomb blast in south Philippines kills at least 2

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A crude bomb hidden on a motorcycle on Tuesday exploded in a port city on a southern Philippine island where al-Qaida-linked militants are active, killing at least two people and wounding 24, officials said.

The motorcycle was parked across from a store that was wrecked in the early-morning blast in downtown Jolo, killing the store owner instantly, police and the military said. Another homemade bomb found nearby was detonated by authorities, said Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin.

At least two were confirmed dead, but the number of fatalities was expected to rise because many of the wounded — including two policemen — were in critical condition, said regional military commander Maj. Gen. Juancho Sabban. Most of the wounded were passers-by, and authorities suspended school classes in Jolo for fear of more attacks.

A radio report said police initially suspected the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf

group in the explosion.

The explosion follows a bomb blast Sunday outside a Roman Catholic cathedral in Cotabato city on the main southern island of Mindanao, which killed six people and wounded scores others in an attack the military blamed on the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The rebels denied it. They have waged a decades-long battle for self-rule in the southern Mindanao region, homeland of Muslims in this predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Malaysian-brokered peace talks between the government and the rebels collapsed last year when a preliminary deal on an expanded Muslim autonomous region fell apart, sparking deadly clashes that have displaced large numbers of villagers.

Unlike the Moro rebels, who are pursuing on-and-off talks with the government, the Abu Sayyaf is considered a terrorist organization because of its al-Qaida links and many terrorist attacks, including ones on Americans. The group and its



A member of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force who will be deployed to southern Basilan province, places a rosary on his uniform during send-off ceremonies in suburban Taguig, south of Manila, Philippines on Sunday June 28, 2009. Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants killed two unarmed army soldiers involved in the construction of a school building in Basilan, southern Philippines, sparking strong military condemnations and a manhunt for the attackers, officials said.

Associated Press

allies, numbering about 400, have turned to kidnappings to make money in recent

years, raising concerns among Philippine and U.S. security officials that ransom payments

could revive the group, which has been weakened by years of U.S.-backed offensives. □




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Seven U.S. troops killed throughout Afghanistan

FISNIK ABRASHI

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — Bombs and bullets killed seven American troops on the deadliest day for U.S. forces in Afghanistan in nearly a year — and a sign that the war being fought in the Taliban heartland of the south and east could now be expanding north.

Four of the deaths Monday came in an attack on a team of U.S. military trainers in the relatively peaceful north, bringing into focus the question of whether the U.S. is committing enough troops to secure a country larger than Iraq in both population and land mass.

Separately, Taliban militants claimed on a militant Web site that they were holding an American soldier whom the U.S. military says insurgents might have captured last week. The Taliban statement, however, did not include any proof, such as a picture or the soldier's name.

On a visit to Moscow, President Barack Obama said it's too soon to measure the success of his new strategy in Afghanistan. He said the U.S. can take another look at the situation after the country's presidential elections on Aug. 20.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in some respects, progress has been "insignificant" in Afghanistan. He said it's hard to say how quickly the situation will improve.

Obama has ordered 21,000 additional American troops to this country, mainly in the south where Taliban militants have made a violent comeback after a U.S.-led coalition topped them from power in late 2001.

The U.S. expects 68,000 troops here by year's end, double last year's total but still half as many as now in Iraq.

The four American soldiers killed in the north died in a roadside bombing of their vehicle in Kunduz province, said Navy Chief Petty Officer Brian Naranjo, a U.S. military spokesman. The soldiers were training Afghan forces, he said.

Two Americans were killed in a roadside blast in southern Afghanistan, Naranjo said. And another American soldier died of wounds in a Monday firefight with militants in the east, a U.S. military spokesman said.

There were no further details on the incidents in the south and the east.

It was the deadliest day for American troops in Afghanistan since July 13, 2008, when 10 soldiers were killed — nine of them when militants using small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades attacked a remote outpost in the village of Wanat near the Pakistani border.

The Taliban claim about holding a captured U.S. soldier came six days after a soldier was noticed missing during a routine check of his unit June 30. His body armor and weapon were found on the base.

Two U.S. defense sources have said the soldier "just walked off" post with three Afghans after he finished working. They had no explanation for why he left.

In southern Afghanistan, meanwhile, thousands of U.S. Marines continued with their anti-Taliban offensive in Helmand province. Some 500 Marines out of 4,000 participating in the operation moved into the Khan Neshin area, a Marine statement said Monday.

"This is the first time coalition forces have had a sustained presence so far south in the Helmand River valley. Khan Neshin had been a Taliban stronghold for several years before Afghan, and coalition forces arrived and began discussions with local leaders several days ago," the



U.S. Marines from the 2nd MEB, 1st Battalion 5th Marines arrive at a compound to sleep for the night in a town in the Nawa district of Afghanistan's Helmand province Monday July 6, 2009.

Associated Press

statement added.

In the southern province of Kandahar, meanwhile, a suicide car bomber blew himself up outside the outer gate of the main NATO base in the region, killing two civilians and wounding 14 other people.

Those wounded near the gates of Kandahar Airfield included 12 civilians and two Afghan soldiers, said Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazai, the top military commander for southern Afghanistan.

As the conflict intensifies, U.S. forces are under pressure to minimize civilian deaths in military operations. In an effort to reduce civilian losses, the new commander of U.S. and NATO forces, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, issued guidelines ordering troops to "scrutinize and limit" the use of airstrikes against residential compounds, which Taliban fighters often use as hideouts. McChrystal says he hopes

to produce a cultural shift in the military so that his troops' first priority will be protecting Afghan civilians, not using massive fire power. McChrystal's guidelines went into effect last week, and officials released a declassified version Monday.

The three directives are that

airstrikes must be authorized and very limited but can be used in self-defense if troops' lives are at risk; troops must be accompanied by Afghan forces before they enter residences; and troops cannot go into or fire upon mosques or other religious sites, though this is already U.S. policy. □

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Home Game: Cards' Pujols leads All-Star voting

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Albert Pujols will be in a familiar spot when St. Louis hosts the 80th All-Star game. Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield is headed for a brand new situation.

Pujols was the leading vote-getter in balloting for the Midsummer Classic announced Sunday by Major League Baseball, giving the Cardinals' first baseman the start in his home ballpark.

"It feels great to be there and represent the organization and the city you play in," Pujols said.

The National League MVP is well on his way to another amazing year, leading the majors with 31 homers and 82 RBIs. He collected 5,397,374 votes to finish with the second-highest total in major



San Francisco Giants catcher Bengie Molina, left, calls for a walk of St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols, right, during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 1, 2009, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

league history, trailing only Ken Griffey Jr.'s six million votes in 1994.

"I think that's just a recognition around the country that he's had a phenomenal first half on top of a phenomenal career," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "I'm sure our fans supported him, but he's been incredible and it's well-deserved."

Wakefield made his first All-Star roster in his 17th season, one of a major league-high six Red Sox headed to Busch Stadium for the July 14 game. The 42-year-old right-hander is tied for the big league lead with 10 wins.

Wakefield got a standing ovation when Boston's All-Stars were announced at Fenway Park, and acknowledged the cheering crowd with a wave.

Continued on Page B12



Wimbledon champions Roger Federer, left, and Serena Williams pose together during the Champions Dinner at the Hotel Intercontinental, in London on Sunday July 5, 2009.

Associated Press

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Roger Federer is back at No. 1.

Federer returned to the top of the ATP rankings Monday, a day after winning Wimbledon by edging Andy Roddick 16-

Federer returns to No. 1 with Wimbledon victory

14 in the longest fifth set in Grand Slam final history. Federer moves up from No. 2, switching places with former No. 1 Rafael Nadal.

"It's fantastic, because definitely, when you lose No. 1, you never know if you're ever going to return to it," Federer said Monday at the All England Club.

"I always thought it was easier staying No. 1 than getting there."

A year ago at Wimbledon, Nadal beat Federer in the final and overtook him atop the rankings in August.

That ended Federer's record stay of 237 consecutive weeks at No. 1, a streak that began on Feb. 2, 2004, after his first Australian Open title.

"Once I was No. 1, everything just clicked, and everything was easy," Federer said. "I beat all the other top 10 guys, I won every final I played,

and so I hope that's going to return again, that I'm able also to dominate my fellow rivals again and go from there. I'm delighted, of course, I'm No. 1 again."

Nadal did not defend his Wimbledon title, citing sore knees.

His lead over Federer had taken a big hit when Nadal lost in the fourth round at the French Open this year, after having won that major title four consecutive years.

Sunday's title was Federer's sixth at Wimbledon and record-breaking 15th major overall.

The rest of the men's top 10 was mostly unchanged, with Roddick remaining at No. 6. Dinara Safina kept her hold on No. 1 in the WTA rankings, ahead of Wimbledon champion Serena Williams, who stayed at No. 2, and runner-up Venus Williams, still No. 3. □

Cavendish wins third Tour stage

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

LA GRANDE-MOTTE, France (AP) — Britain's Mark Cavendish won Monday's third stage of the Tour de France, while a wily Lance Armstrong jumped to third place overall. Fabian Cancellara retained the yellow jersey after keeping up with a breakaway group that bolted out of the pack with 18 miles left.

Cavendish, with his sixth Tour stage win and second in a row, clocked 5 hours, 1 minute, 24 seconds for the hot and breezy 122.1-mile course from Marseille to La Grande-Motte.

Armstrong, Cancellara and 22 other riders in the breakaway group were given the same time. Swiss rider Cancellara extended his overall lead is now 33 seconds ahead of Germany's Tony Martin.

Armstrong remains 40 seconds behind, but jumped from 10th to third place overall after the other riders who entered the stage ahead of him got trapped behind in the main pack.

Cavendish mimed talking on a mobile phone — in recognition of one of the sponsors on his Columbia team — after he won a sprint finish ahead of Norwegian rider Thor Hushovd and Cyril Lemoine of France.

"It was brilliant, we were the only sprint team that wanted to ride today," the 24-year-old Briton said.

The main pack, including pre-race favorites like Armstrong's Astana teammate Alberto Contador and two-time runner-up Cadel Evans, finished 41 seconds behind.

The breakaway group used the gusty conditions to their advantage in a tactic known as a "bordure," with the wind creating splits and making it harder for the main pack to keep up. Contador and other favorites were caught off-guard. □

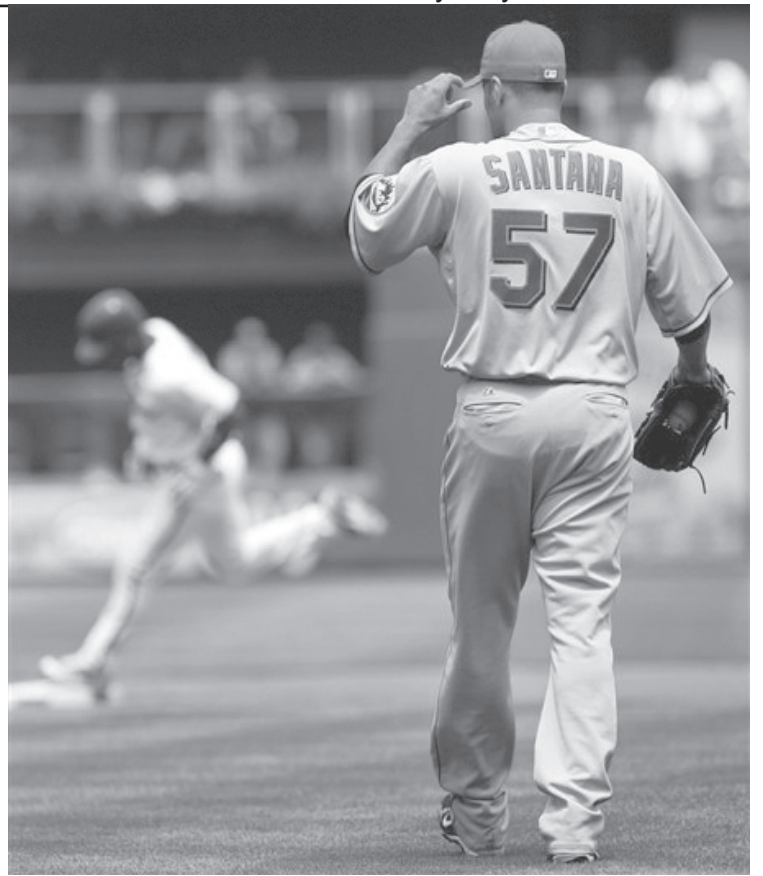
NL Roundup

Phillies beat Mets for a three-game sweep

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley homered off Johan Santana to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 2-0 victory over the New York Mets on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep of their NL East rival. The Phillies had lost 12 of 15 and returned home after being swept by the Atlanta Braves, but took advantage of the injury-ravaged Mets to earn their first sweep at home since taking three straight from the Nationals in late May. The defending World Series Champions pushed the third-place Mets four games back

in the NL East, handing them their eighth loss in 11 games. The Marlins beat the Pittsburgh Pirates to remain a game back in the division. At San Diego, James Loney led off the 13th inning with a homer off Edward Mujica (2-4) to give the Dodgers an away win. Manny Ramirez didn't start for the first time since he returned from a 50-game drug suspension on Friday. Manager Joe Torre said he wanted Ramirez to rest his legs after being out so long. The outfielder pinch hit in the 11th inning off Mike Adams

and was robbed of a hit by right fielder Tony Gwynn's sliding catch. Jeff Weaver pitched three hitless innings for the win. **Astros 7, Giants 1** At San Francisco, Roy Oswalt pitched eight solid innings in the Astros' victory over the Giants. Miguel Tejada, Hunter Pence and Jason Michaels each hit solo home runs for the Astros, who had been shut out in their previous two games against the Giants. Oswalt gave up three hits, struck out six and walked one as he improved to 3-1 with a



Philadelphia Phillies' Jimmy Rollins, background left, rounds the bases on his solo home run as New York Mets starting pitcher Johan Santana (57) walks back to the mound in the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 5, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

AL Roundup

Jeter, Matsui help Yankees to comeback win

NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Jeter had four hits including the go-ahead two-run homer and Hideki Matsui homered and drove in four runs as the New York Yankees rallied from a four-run hole to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 10-8 on Sunday.

It was New York's fifth straight win over the Blue Jays, whose five-run fourth inning gave them an 8-4 lead that never appeared safe on a day in which balls were again flying out of Yankee Stadium. There were four homers hit — all of them to right field — to raise the total to 139 at the new ballpark midway through the season.

Jonathan Albaladejo (3-1), recalled after Chien-Ming Wang went on the disabled list with a shoulder injury, got the win in relief — even though Alfredo Aceves deserves most of the credit.

He allowed only one hit while working the last four innings for his first save.

Jorge Posada had four hits and drove in three runs, including one during the Yankees' decisive three-run fifth inning.

Aaron Hill homered and drove in three runs, and Marco Scutaro and Adam Lind each

had a pair of RBIs as the Blue Jays pounded out a dozen hits.

Jeter homered off B.J. Ryan (1-1).

At Boston, David Ortiz had a tying RBI single and Mark Kotsay added a key two-run hit during a five-run seventh inning, allowing the Red Sox to avoid a three-game sweep. All-Star Dustin Pedroia homered among his three hits for the Red Sox, who have not been swept at home

this season. Ortiz and Jacoby Ellsbury also each hit solo homers.

Ronny Cedeno had a bases-loaded triple for Seattle, which won its first series in Boston since 2001.

In other AL games it was, Oakland 5, Cleveland 2; N.Y. Yankees 10, Toronto 8; Boston 8, Seattle 4; Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 3; Minnesota 6, Detroit 2; L.A. Angels 9, Baltimore 6; and Texas 5, Tampa Bay 2. □

2.08 ERA over his last four starts.

Giants' starter Randy Johnson left the game with a left shoulder strain, injured during a plate appearance, after committing a throwing error in the top of the fourth inning. Johnson allowed four runs on five hits over 3 2-3 innings. He struck out two and did not walk a batter.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 3 At Denver, Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer and Felipe Lopez broke a tie game with an RBI single in the seventh, giving the Diamondbacks

their first series win since mid June at Kansas City.

Dan Haren allowed three runs — one earned — before being taken out in the seventh for a pinch hitter. The three runs allowed were his most since May 23 at Oakland.

In other NL games it was, Florida 5, Pittsburgh 0; St. Louis 10, Cincinnati 1; Washington 5, Atlanta 3; Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Mets 0; Chicago Cubs 8, Milwaukee 2; Arizona 4, Colorado 3; Houston 7, San Francisco 1; and L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 6, 13 innings. □

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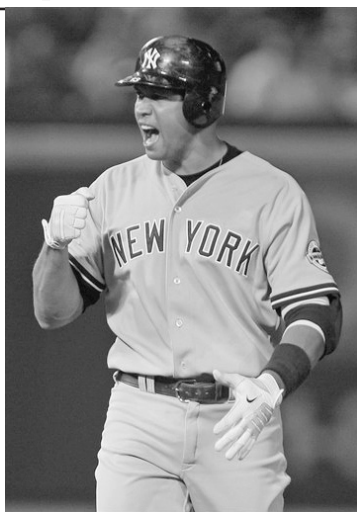
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Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez, left, steps in the batter's box in the fourth inning against the San Diego Padres in a baseball game Friday, July 3, 2009, in San Diego; and New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez reacts after hitting a two-run double in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta, Thursday, June 25, 2009.

ALL STAR VOTING

Continued from Page B10

"I have a lot of emotions running through right now," he said after Boston's 8-4 victory over Seattle. "It's a pretty proud moment for me and my family."

Teammate Dustin Pedroia, the reigning American League MVP, passed Texas' Ian Kinsler in a close vote at second base and left fielder Jason Bay also won a spot in the lineup.

While Pedroia rallied to get the start, Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis was caught by Yankees slugger Mark Teixeira in the final voting. Youkilis made the team, anyway, along with Boston ace Josh Beckett and closer Jonathan Papelbon. The injury-riddled Mets lead the NL with four selections. Center fielder Carlos Beltran and third baseman David Wright were elected by the fans, but Beltran has been out

with a bruised right knee and likely won't play.

New York ace Johan Santana and closer Francisco Rodriguez were selected by the players.

Starting for the NL: Pujols at first, Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Florida shortstop Hanley Ramirez, Wright at third, Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina and Beltran, Milwaukee's Ryan Braun and Philadelphia's Raul Ibanez in the outfield. Ibanez has been sidelined by a groin injury and could sit out.

Molina, who turns 27 on July 13 and is the youngest of three brothers playing catcher in the majors, becomes the first of his siblings to make the All-Star game.

"It's special for me, for my family, for the people of Puerto Rico," he said. "It's a small country, and it's special for them, too."

The AL starting lineup: Teixeira at first, Pedroia at

second, Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, Tampa Bay third baseman Evan Longoria, outfielders Bay, Josh Hamilton of Texas and Ichiro Suzuki of Seattle, and Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer.

Hamilton held onto his starting spot despite being on the disabled list for much of the first half with an abdominal injury.

"I don't feel I personally deserve to go but at the same time the fans voted me in so I'm more than happy about that," he said. "It's a real honor for me to go for a second time around."

Jeter was the leading vote-getter in the AL and will make his 10th appearance and sixth start in the Midsummer Classic. "It's kind of hard to

believe," he said. "It makes you feel good."

Jeter and the AL beat the National League 4-3 in 15 innings at Yankee Stadium last season to improve to 11-0-1 since the NL last won in 1996 at Philadelphia's old Veterans Stadium, the longest unbeaten streak in the game's history.

Once again, the league that wins the All-Star game will get home-field advantage in the World Series.

As usual, there were a few snubs to go along with a couple of missing players used to playing in baseball's showcase game.

Houston first baseman Lance Berkman, Milwaukee right-hander Yovani Gallardo and Washington slugger Adam Dunn were left off the NL

squad. Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera, Texas righty Kevin Millwood and Angels starter Jered Weaver failed to make it in the AL.

Dodgers outfielder Manny Ramirez and Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, both 12-time All-Stars, weren't expected to make the rosters, but their absence was compelling nonetheless.

Ramirez was suspended for the first 50 games of the season for violating MLB's drug policy and A-Rod missed time following hip surgery after admitting in spring training to using steroids when he played for the Rangers.

There is still one spot to be determined on each 33-man roster, which was increased by one from last year. □

Report: Players asking for Bivens' resignation

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A meeting last week of more than a dozen players has resulted in a letter sent to the PGA Tour's board urging that commissioner Carolyn Bivens resign, according to a published report.

Golfweek Magazine reported Monday that key players stated in the letter the PGA Tour's woes cannot be blamed on a poor economy, and they said the tour should find a new leader to rebuild relationships with longtime sponsors.

The magazine cited a player

who had received a copy of the letter.

Among those at the meeting last week in Toledo, Ohio, were Lorena Ochoa, Paula Creamer, Cristie Kerr, Morgan Pressel and Natalie Gulbis, among the most prominent players in women's golf.

Golfweek said players in favor of Bivens' resignation attached their names, although it didn't say how many signed it.

LPGA spokesman David Higdon did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

The meeting came two days after the LPGA Tour lost another tournament when the Kapalua LPGA Classic asked for a year off to find a title sponsor. Instead, the LPGA said it would use all legal remedies to hold Kapalua to the remaining four years of its contract.

The tour has left two stops — Rochester, New York, and Toledo — uncertain if the contracts will be renewed for next year, and it already has lost the popular Corning Classic. Also up in the air is the Michelob Ultra Championship in Virginia.

The LPGA has lost seven tournaments since 2007, including all three events

staged in Hawaii.

Seoul Broadcasting Systems was offended when Bivens announced during the SBS Open in Hawaii that it had a new television contract with another Korean network. That ended SBS' sponsorship, and it then signed a 10-year deal with the PGA Tour to sponsor the season-opening tournament at Kapalua, won this year by Geoff Ogilvy.

The U.S. Women's Open, which is not run by the LPGA Tour, is being played this week outside Philadelphia. After that, the LPGA Tour will not have another tournament in the United States until the last week in August.

Golfweek reported that at a player meeting last month at the State Farm Classic, players were told 10 contracts with title sponsors had been signed for 2010.

"We're getting to the point where we don't know who to believe, which is hard," Katherine Hull told the magazine.

"When tournaments that have been very loyal to us start withdrawing, that's really a red flag to me."

Bivens, who took over for Ty Votaw in 2005, has two years remaining on her contract. □

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WNBA Roundup

Sutton-Brown leads Indiana past Atlanta



Indiana Fever's Tammy Sutton-Brown, right, gets a bucket over Atlanta Dream's Erika Desouza in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, July 5, 2009. The Fever defeated the Dream 78-74.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tammy Sutton-Brown had 22 points and nine rebounds, leading the Indiana Fever past the Atlanta Dream 78-74 on Sunday for their franchise-best eighth straight victory. Tamika Catchings added 19 points, nine rebounds and six steals, and Katie Douglas scored 10 for the Fever (8-2), who avenged a season-opening loss to Atlanta to remain the WNBA's best team.

Sancho Lyttle had 18 points, Erika de Souza and Angel McCoughtry each scored 15 for the Dream (5-7), who lost for the third time in four games.

Sun 95, Shock 92, OT

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Erin Phillips scored six of her 19 points in overtime, leading the Sun. Sandrine Gruda, playing her first game of the season after representing France in the European championships, had a career-

high 23 points for the Sun (5-4).

Detroit, which lost star Deanna Nolan to a pulled hamstring in the third quarter, fell to 2-7. Katie Smith had 28 points and rookie Shavonte Zellous added 20.

Smith's 3-pointer put Detroit ahead 79-77 in the final minute of regulation, but Lindsey Whalen forced overtime with a pair of free throws with 8 seconds remaining.

Mercury 104, Sparks 89

At Los Angeles, Cappie Pondexter scored 21 points and Diana Taurasi had 20, leading the Mercury. Taurasi added a season-high six assists, five rebounds and three blocks in her first game for the Mercury (8-4) since being cited for drunk driving Thursday morning.

DeWanna Bonner had 17 points and 10 rebounds as Phoenix took a half-game lead over second-place Minnesota in the WNBA's Western Conference.

The Sparks' Candace Parker made her season debut after being cleared to play Tuesday. Parker, who gave birth to a daughter on May 13, had six points and four rebounds in 20 minutes. She was the league's MVP and top rookie last season.

Tina Thompson and Betty Lennox scored 17 points apiece for the Sparks (3-6). DeLisha Milton-Jones tied a season high with 15 points, all in the first half.

In the WNBA action it was, Indiana 78, Atlanta 74; Connecticut 95, Detroit 92, OT; and Phoenix 104, Los Angeles 89. □

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Zelaya busca apoyo Washington para volver a Honduras

Hoy se reúne con Hillary Clinton

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)

- El derrocado presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, buscará apoyo en Washington para intentar retornar al poder en su país, donde el domingo el Gobierno interino le prohibió aterrizar en medio de violentas protestas que dejaron al menos un muerto. Zelaya, que el 28 de junio fue sacado de su casa a punta de rifle por militares y llevado a Costa Rica, se entrevistará el martes con la secretaria de Estado norteamericana, Hillary Clinton, mientras el Gobierno interino trata de iniciar un diálogo con la OEA para explicar la situación.

En las calles de Tegucigalpa, unos dos mil manifestantes marcharon indignados después de que al menos una persona muriera en el aeropuerto el domingo cuando grupos de simpatizantes de Zelaya trataron de ingresar a la pista y militares que la custodiaban abrieron fuego.

No había detalles disponibles sobre el encuentro entre Zelaya y Clinton, que sería un gesto significativo de apoyo por parte del gobierno de Barack Obama.

Washington ha dicho que el golpe de Estado “no fue legal”, en contraste con las épocas de la Guerra Fría, cuando el país apoyó este tipo de acciones en Centroamérica.

“Nuestro objetivo continúa siendo la restauración de (...) el orden democrático en Honduras, renovamos nuestro llamado a todos los actores políticos en Honduras para hallar una solución pacífica a esta crisis”, dijo el portavoz del Departamento de Estado, Ian Kelly. Pero el Gobierno interino encabezado por el ex jefe del Congreso, Roberto Micheletti, ha dicho que el retorno de Zelaya no es materia de discusión. “Eso es innegociable”, dijo el domingo el canciller interino, Enrique Ortez, reiterando una posición que deja la crisis



La presidenta argentino, Cristina Fernández, habla con el derrocado presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya en una conferencia de prensa en el aeropuerto internacional de Comalapa, en El Salvador, 5 jul 2009. REUTERS/Luis Galdamez

política en la pequeña nación exportadora de café y textiles en un callejón sin salida.

Ortez dijo a una radio de Chile que dos personas habían muerto en la protesta, aunque la morgue de Tegucigalpa sólo registraba uno, la misma versión de los manifestantes. Los simpatizantes de Zelaya marcharon el lunes por la mañana con un maniquí cubierto por la bandera azul y blanca de Honduras gritando “¡Asesinos!” a los militares y policías que vigilaban los alrededores de la casa presidencial.

“Llamo a las Fuerzas Armadas de Honduras a que bajen sus rifles”, dijo la noche del domingo el depuesto líder hondureño desde El Salvador, adonde regresó luego de que las autoridades provisionales le prohibieran aterrizar en el aeropuerto de Toncontín, en Tegucigalpa.

TENSIONES Y EL FACTOR CHAVEZ

Zelaya estuvo acompañado por los presidentes de Argentina, Cristina Fernández; de Ecuador, Rafael Correa; de Paraguay, Fernando Lugo,

así como del presidente de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, Miguel D’Escoto y del secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA),

José Miguel Insulza.

“Lo que queremos es paz y que vuelva nuestro presidente”, dijo durante la marcha Gerson Aranda, un estudiante de 25 años que aseguró que no podía asistir a clases debido al toque de queda, que fue endurecido el domingo.

El golpe de Estado fue el punto culminante de días de tensión en el empobrecido país de casi 8 millones de habitantes, donde Zelaya intentaba realizar una consulta popular que abriría el camino a la reelección presidencial, a pesar de que había sido prohibida por un juez.

Zelaya provocó irritación sobre todo entre grandes empresarios, líderes políticos incluso de su propio partido y parte de la población con la consulta, a la que muchos vieron como algo impuesto por su aliado, el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez. □

Hillary Clinton espera a Zelaya en Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) - La secretaria de Estado Hillary Rodham Clinton planea reunirse esta semana con el derrocado presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, en momentos en que el gobierno de Barack Obama estudia la respuesta a su derrocamiento.

Las conversaciones, previstas para el martes, serán el contacto de más alto nivel entre ambos países desde el golpe de Estado de la semana pasada y el intento frustrado de Zelaya de regresar a Honduras.

Zelaya se reunió con dos altos diplomáticos estadounidenses en Washington el domingo después que la Organización de los Estados Americanos suspendió la participación de Honduras en el organismo debido al golpe. En su intento de regresar, Zelaya llegó hasta varios cientos de metros sobre el aeropuerto de Tegucigalpa, pero su avión no pudo aterrizar debido a los obstáculos colocados en la pista por orden del gobierno interino.

Los enfrentamientos entre policías, soldados y miles de partidarios de Zelaya derivaron en actos violentos y murió uno de los seguidores del presidente derrocado, lo cual

fue condenado a nivel internacional.

Diplomáticos de la ONU, la OEA, Estados Unidos y países europeos intentaron buscar una base de negociación con el presidente interino Roberto Micheletti, quien encabeza el gobierno que reemplazó a Zelaya. Micheletti ha jurado que no negociará hasta que “las cosas regresen a la normalidad”.

Desde el derrocamiento de Zelaya, el gobierno de Obama ha optado por trabajar a través de la OEA. Washington ha limitado los contactos militares y congelado los programas de ayuda directa al gobierno, pero todavía no ha determinado si se debe suspender toda ayuda no humanitaria a Honduras.

El vocero del Departamento de Estado, Ian Kelly, dijo el lunes que Estados Unidos “deplora el uso de la fuerza contra los manifestantes en Tegucigalpa” y pidió al “régimen de facto y todos los actores en Honduras a que se abstengan de los actos de violencia y busquen una solución pacífica, constitucional y perdurable a las graves divisiones en el país por medio del diálogo” □

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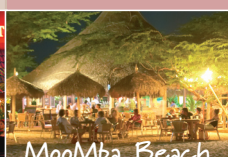
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